CONFERENCE

Programme

ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΟΙ ΦΙΛΟΙ ΤΗΣ ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗΣ

10 December ‘26 · 9.00-15.00

Reading Prescriptions: Reading and Information-Seeking in a Digital Age

Satellite event of LibEdu2026

Giannis Marinos Hall, Megaron, The Athens Concert Hall · **mmb.org.gr**

09.00-09.30 Registration · Εγγραφές

09.30-10.00 Greetings · Χαιρετισμοί

Session 1 · Chair: Eva Semertzaki

10.00-10.40 **Winning back readers: learnings from the National Literacy Trust**

Aisha Arif, Research Manager, National Literacy Trust, UK

Across the UK, evidence from the National Literacy Trust and the wider sector has pointed to a long-term decline in reading engagement. This is not simply a challenge for children and young people: changes can be seen across generations, from the reading and literacy experiences parents create with young children at home to reading enjoyment and habits among children, young people and adults.

Drawing on two decades of National Literacy Trust research alongside wider evidence, this session explores what we know about why people disengage from reading – and what might bring them back. We consider the importance of relevance, choice and personal interests; changing reading habits and formats; and the influence of families, schools, communities and the wider culture in shaping people’s relationships with reading.

We then look at how this evidence informed the UK’s 2026 National Year of Reading, a national campaign designed to make reading feel more visible, accessible and culturally relevant. We share emerging evidence of positive change in 2026, including improvements in reading engagement among children, young people and adults, while recognising that progress remains uneven and that long-term challenges persist.

Ultimately, winning back readers is not simply about persuading people to read more. It means understanding how reading fits into people’s lives and creating the conditions in which people of all ages can find reading that feels relevant, rewarding and worth choosing.

10.50-11.30 **The Apotheosis of the Author’s Library: The Strange Case of the Eco Library**

Riccardo Fedriga and Francesca Tancini, University of Bologna, Umberto Eco Foundation, Library Umberto Eco

In April 2026, the first 32,500 volumes of Umberto Eco's "Modern Working Library" were transferred from his house in Milan to its new venue at the University of Bologna. In the transition from the private to the public dimension, this collection serves as a complex cognitive device that explicitly challenges the fragmentation of the digital age and of automatic, purely bibliometric readings.

Rather than a static repository of data to be mechanically cross-referenced, the author's library is presented as a dynamic "open work", as Eco would have phrased it, where meaning is continuously re-activated through the intervention of its visitors. By interweaving traditional classification with the spatial reconstruction of Eco's non-linear intellectual trajectories, this case outlines an innovative model of preservation. It emphasises how an author's library resists passive or automated consumption, demanding instead an active hermeneutic responsibility from the reader and visitor. This tactile and relational layout allows researchers to break free from passive information-seeking habits, rediscover alternative sources, and operate at the critical threshold between established order and creative reconfiguration.

11.30-12.00 Coffee break · Διάλειμμα για καφέ

Session 2 · Chair: Nikoletta Stathopoulou

12.00-12.40

Readers Are Not Lost: Libraries, Attention and the Return to Deep Reading

Carme Fenoll, Director of Social Policies and Community, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)

In an age of constant notifications, fragmented attention and artificial intelligence, libraries face a new challenge: not simply attracting readers, but helping people rediscover the pleasure and value of sustained reading. Are we really losing readers, or are we losing the spaces, time and conditions that make deep reading possible?

Drawing on experiences from public and university libraries in Catalonia, this presentation explores how libraries can respond to changing reading habits without turning their backs on technology. Rather than viewing digital platforms and artificial intelligence exclusively as threats, it proposes rethinking the library as a place for attention, critical thinking, human connection and intellectual discovery. The session will examine how librarians can encourage curiosity, create meaningful reading experiences and help people move beyond the quick answers offered by search engines and AI tools.

A participatory workshop will invite attendees to explore practical strategies for promoting deep reading in their own libraries, turning everyday challenges into opportunities for engagement.

The central message is simple: the future of libraries is not only about providing access to information, but also about helping people find the time, confidence and motivation to engage with it deeply.

12.50-13.30 **Lost in the Feed? How young people navigate information in the digital age**

Vanessa Bitter, Managing Director, #UseTheNews

Young people encounter news and information in an increasingly fragmented, algorithm-shaped digital environment. Rather than actively seeking it out, they increasingly come across information. It appears in social feeds, videos, recommendations and conversations, often alongside entertainment and personal content. This talk explores how these changing habits affect the way young people access, assess and engage with news and information. It also explains why news and information literacy is essential for informed participation in a democratic society.

Drawing on the #UseTheNews initiative in Germany, the talk presents practical approaches that help young people assess sources and navigate the digital information environment with confidence. It also considers the role that libraries and other educational institutions can play in providing a trusted space for orientation, dialogue and participation.

Panel discussion · Chair: Vera Kriezi

13.45-14.30 **Who Will Read Tomorrow? Libraries and the Next Generation**

Aisha Arif, National Literacy Trust, UK
Riccardo Fedriga, University of Bologna, Umberto Eco Foundation
Francesca Tancini, University of Bologna, Library Umberto Eco
Carme Fenoll, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)
Vanessa Bitter, #UseTheNews
Artemis Chaleplioglou, University of West Attica

14.30-15.00 Closing remarks

Speakers



Aisha Arif

Research Manager, National Literacy Trust, UK

Aisha Arif is the Research Manager at the National Literacy Trust. She mainly works on delivering NLT's Annual Literacy Survey, but she also contributes to bespoke research projects on literacy in the UK. Her recent published reports at the National Literacy Trust include 'Children and young people's reading and wellbeing in 2026', 'Children and young people's engagement with poetry in 2026' and three audio reports which bring together evidence from across the home, school and everyday lives of children and young people. Prior to the National Literacy Trust, she worked for research agencies such as Ipsos and others in the culture and charity sectors. She holds a BA in Archaeology from the University of Liverpool and an MA in Museum Studies from University College London.



Riccardo Fedriga

University of Bologna, Umberto Eco Foundation

Riccardo Fedriga is a Professor of History of Ideas at the University of Bologna and Scientific Director of the Umberto Eco Foundation. He serves on the boards of several prominent Italian cultural institutions, including the Bassetti Foundation and the Paolo Grassi Foundation. He is the author of more than 150 publications, ranging from scholarly articles and works for general audiences to major reference works and literary translations. He also collaborates with metaLAB (at) Harvard, founded and directed by Professor Jeffrey T. Schnapp, and is involved in the leadership of the International Centre for Umberto Eco Studies. He serves as Scientific Coordinator of the Steering Committee for the Umberto Eco Modern Library National Project, a collaborative initiative involving the Italian Ministry of Culture (MiC), the University of Bologna and the Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense.



Francesca Tancini

University of Bologna, Library Umberto Eco

Francesca Tancini has been Project Manager for the transfer and relocation of the Umberto Eco Library from the author's private house in Milan to the new venue at the University of Bologna. Previously, she was librarian and curator at the Federico Zeri Foundation Art Library. She holds a PhD in Visual Studies, has held fellowships at Harvard, Oxford, Yale and Princeton, and was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at Newcastle University with an EU-funded research project in partnership with the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.



Carme Fenoll

Director of Social Policies and Community, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)

Carme Fenoll is Director of Social Policies and Community at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), with over 25 years of experience in cultural policy, institutional management and team leadership across the public and university sectors. She leads UPC's cultural, community and knowledge programmes, including UPCArts, UPC Alumni and the

university's equality, sustainability and cooperation policies, with a consolidated track record designing and delivering initiatives with territorial and institutional impact. She specialises in governance, institutional relations and the leadership of cross-cutting structures, with a strong ability to build consensus and drive initiatives connecting culture, education and society. An experienced librarian and cultural manager, she has led major library and academic initiatives, including serving as Head of the Libraries Service for the Government of Catalonia (2012–2017).



Vanessa Bitter

Managing Director, #UseTheNews

Vanessa Bitter is Managing Director of #UseTheNews, a German initiative that brings together journalism, education and research to strengthen news and information literacy, particularly among young people. Since 2021, she has been involved in developing and implementing the initiative's projects, with a particular focus on young people's news habits, and led the nationwide "Year of News" in 2024. Prior to joining #UseTheNews, she worked for several years at the German Press Agency (dpa). She studied Journalism and Political Science in Mainz.



Artemis Chaleplioglou

Assistant Professor, Department of Archival, Library and Information Studies, University of West Attica

Dr Artemis Chaleplioglou is Assistant Professor at the Department of Archival, Library and Information Studies of the University of West Attica (UNIWA), specialising in biomedical information. She is a graduate of the Ionian University (BA 2004, MSc 2006, PhD 2018), where she also worked as a postdoctoral researcher. From 2005 to 2023 she was Head of the Library of the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens (BRFAA). She is a member of the Information Management Laboratory at UNIWA and represents Greece as an elected member of the EAHIL Council. Her publications include the book «Iatriki Pliroforisi» (Medical Information, 2025) and two bibliographic guides. She is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Hospital Librarianship (Taylor & Francis) and of the Journal of Integrated Information & Management (UNIWA). Her research interests focus on information organisations, information management, bibliometrics, the semantic web and artificial intelligence.